

Preface

The year 2002 marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on Desertification (UNCOD) held in Nairobi, Kenya, and the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), better known as the Earth Summit, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The first conference raised the world's awareness to the causes and effects of desertification. The second provided a programme of action for sustainable development worldwide (Agenda 21). The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, which was born out of these two conferences, emphasizes the importance of participation at the community level in planning, decision-making and implementation of actions needed to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought. It is essential that communities develop the capacity to make informed decisions about their development strategies.

In October 1994 and May 1997, international conferences were held in Tucson, Arizona, USA, in support of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. Those conferences focused on desertification in developed and developing countries.

As a follow-up to these two conferences, a workshop was held in Gobabeb, Namibia in April 2000 where representatives from ten Southern African Development Community (SADC) subregion countries met each other, shared experiences and lessons learned and decided what support they require in planning for future development. Experts also participated in this workshop to help develop a process which will link to the nine topics that will be addressed in an international conference to be held in April 2002.

Then in May 2001, members of four communities involved in the Desertification 2002 process participated in exchange visits to share ideas and present their communities to visitors in preparation for the international conference in April 2002.

Two members of the Grootberg community with their hosts in the Gibeon area in Namibia.



Conference Components



The Conference includes a Symposium in Cape Town, Rural Community Interactions in South Africa and Namibia, and a Consolidation Work-shop at Gobabeb, Namibia. Participants may take part in the 'Full Package' or attend only the Cape Town Symposium. Relevant training modules are scheduled for the weeks preceding and following the conference.

Conference Objectives

- 1 Provide a forum for the exchange of knowledge and expertise between scientists, development practitioners and dryland community members,
- 2 Generate an understanding of the value of linking local knowledge with scientific research,
- 3 Focus on interpretation and the dissemination of information for effective application of research,
- 4 Provide participants with experience of innovative working examples of community action to combat desertification, and
- 5 Give participants a hands-on practical experience.

Topics to be Addressed

- 1 The National Action Programme process and linkage to the Convention to Combat Desertification.
- 2 The role of regional, local and community structures in combating desertification.
- 3 Appropriate technologies for combatting desertification.
- 4 Alternative forms of income generation, e.g., community-based dryland tourism, applied arts and crafts.
- 5 Indigenous knowledge and participatory research.
- 6 Land tenure and management in the context of desertification.
- 7 Monitoring and evaluation of land use and community development.
- 8 Processes of desertification.
- 9 Rehabilitation, restoration and prevention of desertification.

Cape Town Symposium (April 8th-10th)

A three-day symposium will begin on 8 April 2002 at the National Botanical Institute of South Africa, Kirstenbosch Conference Centre, Cape Town, South Africa, with presentations from invited speakers and authors of selected papers, posters, dramas (including story telling), plays and demonstrations. These oral and poster presentations will provide a background for the interaction with selected rural communities and the Gobabeb workshop discussions. It also will provide a wealth of scientific and applicable information related to combating desertification at the community level for those who can only attend this segment of the two-week conference.

The meeting venue is the Old Mutual Conference and Exhibition Centre adjoining the Visitors' Centre with its complex of Coffee Bar, Gift Shop and Bookstore. Adjacent is the buffet and a la carte Kirstenbosch Restaurant, set on the edge of the Gardens, with a spectacular mountain view.

Also part of the complex is the Botanical Society Conservatory, a 1600m² display of South African plants which cannot be grown in the outdoor gardens. Here, under one roof, you will find plants from high mountain peaks, shady forests and hot, dry deserts. The main house, dominated by a large baobab tree, features succulents and other drought-adapted plants from the arid regions of southern Africa. Special collections of bulbs, ferns and alpine are displayed in smaller corner houses.

Who Should Attend?



Part of the Kirstenbosch Gardens, home of the National Botanical Institute of South Africa.

Scientists, land managers, government and non-governmental organisation/department representatives working, or interested in working, at the community level to combat desertification; community leaders and interested community members; young practitioners working with programmes to combat desertification and students in the environmental and development fields are invited to participate.

Invited Speakers

A special programme has been compiled for the morning of the first day, Monday 8 April 2002.

This will include an overview of approaches to assessing and combating desertification in southern Africa with an emphasis on connecting community action with science and common sense. Professor Timm Hoffman of the University of Cape Town will lead this presentation with inputs from other programmes including Namibia's Programme to Combat Desertification (NAPCOD).

A selection of contributed papers from a variety of countries illustrating the conference theme include:

- Global Desertification: A new paradigm for an old problem - Jim Reynolds, Mark Stafford-Smith and Pamela Chasek.
- Promoting modern bee-keeping in Nigeria - Enoch Okpara
- Mongolian Community Based Land Management - Adyasuren Borjigdkhan
- The role of research in combating desertification - Mary Seely and Helmut Wöhl

The full programme will be incorporated into the conference web site at des2002.az.blm.gov/events.htm as speakers are confirmed.

Members of the Gibeon community learn about the !Nara melon fields in the Namib Desert.



Programme

The tentative programme for the Cape Town Symposium is as follows:

Sunday, 7 April

15:00 - 18:00 Registration and African Market (including demonstrations and presentations)

Monday, 8 April

07:30 - 08:30 Registration

08:30 - 17:30 Conference proceedings

Sessions include:

- Overview of programmes in southern Africa
- Elaboration of the conference theme
- Indigenous knowledge and participatory research
- Alternative Income Generation

09:30 - 16:30 Accompanying persons programme

18:00 - 19:30 Welcome reception and review of posters and presentations

Tuesday, 9 April

09:00 - 12:30 Conference proceedings

Sessions include:

- Role of community, local and regional structures
- National Action Programme and the CCD

12:30 - 18:00 Afternoon half-day tours
 Evening at Leisure

Wednesday, 10 April

09:00 - 18:30 Conference Proceedings

Sessions include:

- Monitoring and evaluation
- Land tenure and management
- Appropriate technology
- Processes of desertification
- Rehabilitation, restoration and prevention of desertification
- Demonstrations, plays and story-telling

19:30 - late Cape Malay Street Party

Cape Town Half-Day Tours (April 9, 12:30-18:00)

The mid-conference half-day tours are designed to fit into the overall thrust of the programme by providing insights into some of the local issues of land-degradation and development projects to counter it. Each of these diverse tours will be accompanied by a project leader who will be able to interpret the landscapes and points of interest, and will facilitate discussion as it relates to the interests of delegates.

Participants have a choice of visiting:

- **The West Coast National Park** (<http://www.parks-sa.co.za/westcoast/default.htm>)
- **The Cape Peninsula National Park** (<http://www.cpnpc.co.za/frame.html>)
- **Township Tours** (developments taking place in low-income housing and informal settlements) or
- **Robben Island** (<http://www.cpnpc.co.za/frame.html>)

Accompanying Persons

The organisers have put together optional tours in and around Cape Town for accompanying persons. They include:

Monday, 8 April 2002	- Table Mountain and the Victoria & Albert Waterfront
Tuesday, 9 April 2002	- Kirstenbosch Gardens and join the delegates on the afternoon half day tours.
Wed. 10 April 2002	- The World of Birds and Groot Constantia Wine Estate

For detailed information, consult our website www.des2002.az.blm.gov or contact the Conference Secretariat. The cost of the above tours are not included in the conference registration fee. Please indicate your preferred tours on the Registration Form.

Table Mountain and the Victoria and Albert Waterfront



Rural Community Interactions (April 11th – 17th)

Participants involved in the 'Full Conference Package' will proceed from Cape Town to one of the five communities described below. There they will spend five days meeting, discussing and working with community and non- governmental organisation representatives on projects designed to combat desertification and mitigate effects of drought, focusing on alternative income generating schemes.

Kuiseb Valley – Namib Desert – Namibia

Topnaar villages are situated along the ephemeral Kuiseb river, which only floods after good rains further inland. The area they traditionally occupy, with 20 mm mean annual rainfall, is in the Namib- Naukluft Park; they are the only communal farmers in Namibia living in a National Park. Livelihoods of this marginalised group mainly depend on livestock farming, pensions of the elderly and support from family members employed in nearby towns. They also rely on an endemic desert fruit, the !nara. The fruit can be eaten raw or cooked and its nutritious seeds are sold in Walvis Bay, comprising more than a quarter of the yearly income of some families. At present there are efforts to form a !nara harvester co-op ensuring sustainable use of this unique resource.

Visiting this community will allow you to gain insight into ways and means to survive in a harsh desert environment where resource limitations, e.g. water, are enormous. After spending the first night in the #Aonin Camp, which provides toilets, shower and accommodation facilities, you may familiarise yourself with the surrounding environment and meet local people before visiting a Topnaar community centre and a fishing factory in Walvis Bay. To really experience the hard work !nara harvesting involves, you can spend one morning in the !nara fields, harvesting and processing fruits. The programme will include visits to nearby mines and learning about water management and their tourism plans. You will spend two nights at a Topnaar settlement where you can exchange ideas and information about the history, the livelihoods and how people are coping with aridity. Furthermore, you are welcome to assist in daily activities such as milking of goats, cooking and collecting firewood.

Another interesting event will be the visit to a 190km distant, very successful community-based tourism project (Spitzkoppe). Here community members will demonstrate and explain their approach in setting up the business and their ways to sustainably manage the camp and its scarce resources, through use of solar energy and water demand management. Throughout, you will have ongoing exchanges with community members, be it at their village, attending the Sunday church service or in the !nara fields.

Gibeon – Southern Namibia, Hardap Region

Gibeon is surrounded by smaller villages in communal farming areas and serves as the central town providing, amongst others, shop, communication, health and education facilities. Gibeon lies on the ephemeral Fish River with 70-350 mm mean annual rainfall supporting arid shrub-land. Several Namibian NGOs as well as government extension services assist communities to manage their natural resources to combat desertification. At the same time, many of the communities have initiated project support to improve their own livelihoods and resource management. During your visit you will be exposed to many of these projects, as well as gain detailed knowledge about the historical background and traditional use of e.g. medicinal plants and herbs of this region.

After an introduction to all projects and project leaders during your first day, each subsequent day will focus on a single project. You will learn about the history and the people of this area by visiting several traditional places and seeing a drama portraying the culture of the ancient days at Tierkloof. Here you will also have the opportunity to learn about the construction of a community-based campsite overlooking a beautiful gorge, with a traditional village at the entrance.

Another day will be spent at the Oskop conservancy where you will meet project members and discuss past activities and future plans (re-introducing wildlife, eco-tourism). Because Gibeon plays an important role in the region and hosts a wide variety of projects, you will spend one day meeting the chairpersons, leaders and members of several projects. The members of the Agricultural Development Centre, Sustainable Animal and Rangeland Development Programme, a women's sewing project, a gardening and weaving project and a centre for the disabled will be available to discuss and exchange knowledge about alternative income generation and sustainable livelihoods. Your last day will be spent at a model farm learning about the initiation of a wide range of projects directly benefiting the community. Amongst these initiatives are a farmers' co-operative, a goat breeding project, a saving and loan project, a biogas project and a tourism project. During your visit you will be accommodated in tents and, where available, rooms with basic toilet and shower facilities.



The Steering Committee in Windhoek

Grootberg – Kunene Region, northwestern Namibia

Grootberg is located on communal farming land in mountainous and scenic Damaraland where elephants, giraffe, kudus and gemsbok still run wild. The Grootberg Farmers Union and the #Koadi//Hoas Conservancy encompass a number of farms with two main villages (Anker and Erwee) which experience annual rainfall between 60-340mm. Community members are communal cattle and goat farmers. Many activities in Grootberg contribute to resource management and improvement of livelihoods. To bring various service organisations under one umbrella, the Forum for Integrated Resource Management (FIRM) was established. During your visit you will be exposed to ongoing activities, with plenty of opportunity to experience and learn about desertification approaches and alternative income generation activities.

From your base at Grootberg's newly constructed campsite, with a beautiful view of the Grootberg table-mountain, you will go on day excursions to visit projects and exchange information and knowledge. During your first day, you will meet community members and traditional authorities at Anker and Erwee to discuss livelihoods and alternative income generation projects. You will have the opportunity to participate in a demonstration of a recently constructed biogas unit as well as visit a uniquely designed dam, constructed to keep elephants away from the communal farmlands.

One day will be devoted to learning about handcraft activities, e.g. woodcarving where you will be able to try out the handiwork yourself, or purchase souvenirs from the region. To extend your knowledge and insight, members of the #Koadi//Hoas and the neighboring Torra Conservancy, the Farmers Union, FIRM as well as the Integrated Livestock Improvement Scheme, will be available for discussion and information exchange.

Paulshoek – Namaqualand, South Africa

Located in the arid northwest, famous for its fantastic display of flowers each September, Paulshoek is a community of small stock farmers. Community members rely heavily on local resources in a region that receives about 200 mm of rain per year. Limited resources, as well as high unemployment rates are just some of the problems inhabitants are facing on a daily basis. Paulshoek can demonstrate a variety of activities directly addressing rural livelihoods and the natural resources of Paulshoek (solar energy, water saving). Accommodated in traditional huts and tents at the community-based tourism camp with basic toilet and shower facilities, you will be very welcome in Paulshoek.

The programme will include an introduction to community leaders and ongoing activities. The Integrated Development Project and a school gardening project are two amongst many. Arts and crafts play an important role for alternative income generation. Therefore, you will be able to spend half a day with local craftsmen and women with the possibility of participating in making traditional meals, weaving or other activities.

While exploring the environment with an experienced guide, you will also learn about the types and use of plants for traditional medicine. Due to the importance of livestock in this area, one whole day will be put aside to visit several stockposts and the National Landcare Project, set up to monitor and manage previously overused grazing areas. In addition to meeting Paulshoek community members, you will also visit nearby communities and projects and understand how they work and relate to Paulshoek.

Suid Bokkeveld and Wupperthal – South Africa

Suid Bokkeveld and Wupperthal communities are located in the Northern Cape Province of South Africa. They experience harsh climatic conditions with an annual rainfall of 150-400mm and soil that supports fynbos vegetation.

The community members of Suid Bokkeveld are mainly landless families who have been farm labourers for generations. This area is under-developed with poor roads and only one school. In comparison, Wupperthal was established by Rheinisch Missionaries and small-stock farming has a long tradition. However different these two communities are, one thing in common is the production of organically grown rooibos tea. During your visit you will spend two days at Suid Bokkeveld, situated in spectacular mountain scenery rich in rock art where you will be accommodated in homes of community members, and three days in the village of Wupperthal, with pretty cottages and old trees.

At Suid Bokkeveld you will learn about the different aspects of rooibos tea production. Going on a guided walk through rooibos tea lands with the farmers at hand for any questions, you will also visit a women's tea bag production project, as well as tea processing facilities and an organic rooibos nursery. Here you will have discussions with project and local co-op members about markets and fair trade, how the project developed and future plans. Also at Wupperthal you will be exposed to the local rooibos tea production facilities and have the opportunity to discuss Wupperthals' approach towards sustainable use of their resources, including the approach of the Working for Water Project. Furthermore you will spend time visiting the primary school and the shoe factory. Interesting will also be an optional one day hike through the Wupperthal Conservation Area, learning from skilled guides about the history of the region, indigenous vegetation and rock formations.

At all five communities you can expect to be warmly welcomed and hosted, of gaining an insight into daily activities, eating traditional food as well as visiting projects related to improvement and sustainable management of livelihoods. All communities will offer evening entertainment, including traditional dances and story telling with donkey rides and guided nature walks during the day. Altogether you will have the opportunity for first hand information exchange and an experience you will never forget.

Gobabeb Workshop (April 18th-20th)

Following the rural community interactions, a consolidation workshop will take place at the Gobabeb Training and Research Center (GTRC) in Namibia, situated in the Namib Desert about two hours (110km) by road south east from Walvis Bay. GTRC is located along the banks of the ephemeral Kuiseb river with towering sand dunes to the south. At GTRC, participants will work together to share, discuss and synthesise their experiences from the community visits. With the background of the Cape Town Conference, lessons learned and recommendations, along with other results of the workshop, will be summarised and made available to all participants.

DAY 1: Report back:

Prepare and report back on rural community interactions. Groups will share with each other what each experienced and learned during the time spent with the communities.

DAY 2: Lessons learned:

Participants will examine, compare and synthesise what they learned with communities and plan how the information can be transferred to other locations and other countries, as well as taken back to each participating community.

DAY 3: Report writing:

Individual participants will work together to design and compile information to bring back to participants' own organizations and communities. Plans will be made to continue exchange of information and experiences after participants have returned to their home countries. Lodgings and meals at GTRC are included in conference registration fees for the 'Full Package'.



View of the Gobabeb Training and Research Centre from the dunes of the Namib Desert.

Training Modules

Two sets of training modules to accompany the Desertification 2002 conference are being proposed. One set will take place from April 2nd to 5th before the Cape Town Symposium while the second set will take place from April 22nd to 26th following the final conference workshop. The cost includes associated travel, accommodation and food during the training period. Any of these modules may be cancelled or two may be combined if the number of potential participants is insufficient.

The training modules preceding the conference in Cape Town include:

A1. Project Development and Proposal Writing (SADC focus).

Bertus Kruger and Catherine Mathew. The course will kick off with how to conceptualise projects. This will be followed by focusing on why projects are needed, what it is that projects should achieve, and how projects should be put together to ensure successful achievements of goals and objectives. Emphasis will be put on how to measure success in projects and where to find the evidence for success. The identification of important factors outside the direct control of the project but that are of paramount

importance for achieving project success will also be addressed. Project budgeting, operational planning and proposal writing are included. At the end of the course, participants should be able to independently plan their own projects and write project proposals. The course will be conducted in an interactive, participatory manner using visualisation techniques.

A2. Elaboration and Implementation of National Action Plans and Sub-regional Action Plans as a Process (SADC focus).

Karl Aribeb and Shirley Bethune. As an integral part of Namibia's Programme to Combat Desertification (Napcod) and the regional SADC Desertification Interact Projects, Karl Aribeb and Shirley Bethune are offering their knowledge and experience in a four-day course on how to elaborate and implement NAPs and SRAPs to effectively combat desertification within the SADC region. The course will start off by focusing on combating desertification as part of a longer-term sustainable development process and not as an isolated event. Attention will be paid to the development of long-term visions for sustainable development and how combat-ing desertification should fit into it. The second part of the training will focus on identifying major issues and potential solutions in combating desertification. A strategic plan, operational plan as well as a monitoring and evaluation plan will be elaborated to ensure effective and efficient implementation of NAPs and SRAPs. At the end of the course, participants should have an improved understanding of desertification and how it fits into a longer-term process of sustainable development. They should also be able to independently develop NAPs and SRAPs for immediate implementation.

A3. From Community Perceptions to Remote Sensing: Methodologies used for the Assessment of Desertification in Southern Africa.

Timm Hoffman, Dean Fairbanks and Patrik Klintonberg. The course will start with a brief review of desertification and the key indicators generally used to identify the problem. The next day and a half of the course will deal with approaches to assessing land degradation in Namibia. The Desert Research Foundation's excellent field based programmes which have included local people in the assessment and monitoring of land degradation processes within their local environments will be shared. Day three will cover the method-ology used to develop a national assessment of land degradation in South Africa. The final day will explore the use of remote sensing techniques in the creation of spatially explicit models of land degradation in South Africa. In particular, the internationally acclaimed South Africa National Land Cover project will be outlined and discussed in the context of other competing perceptions of land degradation in South Africa.

A4. New Information and Communication Technologies (NICT) (SADC focus).

Anneke Trux and Aubrey Prinz. This course will introduce Basic Support for Corporate Workplaces (BSCW) software, providing participants with training on how to make use of it and use it as their communication tool. Its features include chatroom facilities, discussion forum facilities, netmeeting facilities and basic one-on-one discussion facilities.

A5. Methodology and Implementation of National Action Plan.

Anneke Trux. This workshop will address the importance of Monitoring and Evaluation in the framework of the Convention to Combat Desertification implementation. The course will cover basic concepts and definitions, components of monitoring- evaluation developed in the field of desertification control, building an M&E system, and a tool for qualitative evaluation of NAPs.

Training modules following the conference at Gobabeb from 22nd-26th April will be:

B1. Value Added and Marketing of Crafts for Alternative Income Generation.

Karen le Roux, Rössing Foundation, Mudhut Trading. We will look at sharing information: products, processes and systems about a few successful craft projects in South Africa and Namibia and combine it with practical work where participants will make a product using a resource (skill, cultural or natural) from their community.



A Topnaar homestead in the Namib Desert

B2. Community Based Natural Resource Management: a new approach to conservation (CBNRM).

Patricia Skyer with Dhyani Berger and the Rössing Foundation. This workshop will be focused on developing an understanding of CBNRM as a new approach to conservation and rural development in east and southern Africa and other parts of the world. It will present an overview of the evolution of CBNRM in southern Africa, focusing on progress and challenges in policy and practice. The workshop will also share and practise use of facilitation skills and materials required for CBNRM extension work.

B3. Environmental Assessment and Land Degradation – A Tool for the Future.

Peter Tarr. This one-week course will examine the use of Environmental Assessment (EA) as a sustainable development planning tool in southern Africa. It will provide an introduction to EA, explain the concept, principles, process of conducting an EA, and through interaction with course-goers, examine the specific circumstances of conducting EA's in southern Africa. These include cultural issues, public participation, difficulties in obtaining data, public and private-sector attitudes, trans-frontier impacts and others. The course will focus on how EA can be applied to the small-scale sector, which is becoming relatively more important in the context of southern-Africa's changing economic circumstances.

B4. Alternative Futures Analysis.

Dave Mouat, Judith Lancaster and Scott Bassett. An alternative futures assessment is a method used to design and then evaluate a plausible or reasonable range of possible futures that any given area may have. Course participants will take part in an "imaginary" alternative futures assessment using the Kuiseb watershed as the case study. During the case study, participants will be asked to role-play various stakeholders when determining the allocation of land uses. During the training module the following topics will be addressed: underlying concept; the importance of neutral facilitation; identification of interested and involved persons; workshop and questionnaires to determine local values; issues and concerns; data needs and collection; development of plausible future patterns of land use; developing models describing various alternative future scenarios; evaluation of different scenarios; presentation of assessment results. All the topics represent key components to the successful completion of an alternative futures assessment.

B5. Environmental Information Circulation and Monitoring System on the Internet (EISI).

Anneke Trux and Aubrey Prinz. The EISI programme is intended for people working on environmental information management and leaders in environmental governance who are anxious to develop the work tools and methods they need for improved environmental management. The objective of the course is to give a clearer picture of the political, institutional, technical and financial stakes connected to EISI implementation.

Airport Transfers

A meet and greet service will be provided at Cape Town International Airport for Saturday 6 April 2002 and Sunday 7 April 2002. Desertification delegates and their accompanying persons may purchase an airport transfer to the official conference hotels at a cost of R125.00 (US\$15) per person each way. Delegates arriving before 6 April 2002 will be collected personally.

Should you wish to book an arrival airport transfer, please complete the section on the conference registration form and forward your details to the Conference Secretariat by 31 March 2002. No money will be collected in advance – please bring payment with you when you arrive in Cape Town. Credit card facilities will be available. Departure transfer information will be confirmed on your arrival in Cape Town.



Three members of the Gibeon community who visited the Topnaar community of the Kuiseb Valley

Conference Transport

Transport has been arranged from all the advertised conference hotels to the conference venue and back, as well as to the social functions. This transport is included in the registration fee.

Official Language

The official language of the symposium, rural community interaction and workshop is English. Simultaneous interpretation in French and Afrikaans will be provided throughout the two weeks as required.

Books and Other Sales

A sales room will be provided during the symposium in Cape Town, South Africa, and the workshop in Gobabeb, Namibia for those participants interested in selling, distributing or buying books, articles, videos, arts and crafts, or other materials related to combating desertification. Sellers should submit an abstract or description of items to be sold. Details on sales will be available at the registration desk. Please inform Roben Penny for Cape Town sales and Mary Seely for Gobabeb Sales ahead of time. They can be contacted via the Conference Secretariat.



Accommodation

The organisers of Desertification 2002 have arranged superb accommodation in Cape Town for the conference delegates, ranging from four-star hotels which are on par with the best in the world to more modest hotels. Delegates are urged to make accommodation bookings as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. For all accommodation enquiries, please contact the Conference Secretariat. Prices quoted are bed and breakfast and include 14% VAT. A small government levy of 1% is additional. A deposit of one night's accommodation or your credit card number is required to reserve a room. (Most hotels have suites available.)

THE VINEYARD HOTEL **** (Single R593 Double R864, Single US\$75 Double US\$108)

The Vineyard Hotel combines the unique experience of Cape history, landscape, design and hospitality with all the expected comforts of an outstanding modern hotel. All rooms have en-suite bathrooms, complimentary tea/coffee making facilities and international electrical sockets.

THE TOWNHOUSE HOTEL **** (Single R354 Double R428, Single US\$45 Double US\$54)

Ideally situated in the heart of Cape Town, the Townhouse Hotel offers the best of modern amenities with the quiet comfort and luxury of a private club. All rooms have luxurious en-suite bathrooms with separate shower. The hotel also has a modern gym, heated swimming pool and secure parking. There is also a free shuttle service to the V & A Waterfront.

HOLIDAY INN GARDEN COURT NEWLANDS *** (Single R510 Double R575, Single US\$64 Double US\$72)

The Holiday Inn Garden Court Newlands overlooks Devil's Peak on the eastern slope of Table Mountain and offers all convenience, quality and comfort at exceptionally good value for money. Personal services include dry cleaning / laundry, safety deposit box and wake up calls.

HOLIDAY INN GARDEN COURT EASTERN BOULEVARD *** (Single R415 Double R415, Single US\$52 Double US\$52)

The Holiday Inn Garden Court Eastern Boulevard is located on the Eastern Boulevard over-looking Table Bay and the harbour. The comfortable hotel is ideal for business and leisure travelers, offering spacious, well appointed bedrooms with every modern amenity. There is also an outdoor swimming pool and curio shop.

THE RIVERVIEW LODGE ** (Single R65 Double R110, Single US\$9 Double US\$14)

The Riverview Lodge consists of 4 separate units with numerous cozy lounges and a superb pub. The building is relatively large and provides travelers with several patios and a quiet shady garden. The Riverview Lodge offers family rooms, meals, laundry, internet facilities and a self catering kitchen.

Terms and Conditions of Accommodation

1. A deposit of 1 night's lodging accommodation or your credit card number is required to secure your reservation, with the balance payable on check-in.
2. The closing date for booking guaranteed hotel rooms is 31 December 2001. All bookings received after that date will be on a first-come-first-served basis.
3. All cancellations received in writing before 31 December 2001 will receive a full refund, less 10% handling fee. Late cancellations could forfeit their deposit.
4. Failure to check in to a hotel may result in the delegate being liable for the cost of the full booking.
5. If you supply credit card details, these details will be forwarded to the hotel to guarantee your reservation and payment will only be processed when you check in.
6. Double occupancy rates are quoted per room per night.
7. Rates quoted include breakfast and VAT at 14%, but exclude the tourism levy of 1%.
8. Hotels may request a credit card imprint or cash deposit on check-in to guarantee any extras charged to the account. Extras are payable on check-out.
9. The organisers will endeavor to confirm your reservation with the hotel of your choice where possible.

10. The US Dollar rate was calculated at R8 = US\$1, and is an indication of the price. The rate will be processed at the rate of exchange for the day that your payment comes through and will appear in South African Rands on your bill.

The standard check-in time at hotels is 15:00 and check-out time is 11:00. Should you require an early check-in or late check-out or both, it is recommended that you book an additional night to facilitate this.

Desertification 2002 is sponsored by

- The Desert Research Foundation of Namibia (DRFN) <http://www.drfn.org>
- The German Ministry for Economic Cooperation (BMZ) through Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH
- National Botanical Institute of South Africa (NBI) <http://www.nbi.ac.za>
- United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) <http://www.blm.gov>
- Government of the Republic of Namibia, through the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, as the responsible agency for Namibia's Programme to Combat Desertification and as co-founder and trustee of the Gobabeb Training and Research Centre.
- Government of South Africa, through the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Directorate: Biodiversity and Heritage.
- Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) <http://www.cta.nl>

Supported by

- Southern African Development Community (SADC)

More information on the conference can be found at <http://des2002.az.blm.gov/events.htm>

Organising Committee

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Ms. Roben Penny, South Africa
Dr. George Davis, South Africa
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Steering Committee

Organising Committee Members and
Ms. Margaret Kaemba, Zambia Alliance of Women
Mr. Eric Cloete, Paulshoek, South Africa
Mr. Salomon Rooi, Oskop Conservancy, Namibia
Mr. Gabriel Goagoseb, #Koadi //Hoas Conservancy, Namibia
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